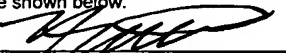


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. EV 419n 928 040 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Missing Parts, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: September 24, 2004 Signature: 

(Danielle L. Herritt)

Docket No.: BSZ-050
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Raphael J. Mannino *et al.*

Application No.: 10/822230

Art Unit: 1636

Filed: April 9, 2004

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: NOVEL ENCOCHLEATION METHODS,
COCHLEATES AND METHODS OF USE

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MS Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 22 of this paper.